

(ESTABLISHED 1851)

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April 9, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 74 2 p.m. 78
Humidity 92 84

April 9, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 67 2 p.m. 76
Humidity 94 71

7912 日八月二

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918.

二月九日英港四九月

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLE SITUATION.

A Brilliant British Counter-Attack.

London, April 8.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters says:—The counter-attack on Avesy Wood on April 6 was a brilliant one, practically re-establishing our position along the old line, and we took a hundred and twenty prisoners with a dozen machine-guns. A German officer says that the casualties have been exceptionally heavy during the past fortnight, apparently because they have been moving more freely than heretofore. Among the men also there has been such a toll of non-commissioned officers that a general hub-cut among the older classes is progressing to replace them.

Three attacks against the New Zealanders proved horribly costly for the enemy. On each occasion the New Zealanders continued firing Lewis guns until the rapidly-thinning waves were sufficiently close and then they bombed them furiously with hand grenades. It is easy to believe the assurance that the Boches disliked this form of resistance. Their dead are lying like corn-sweathe at harvest time before the New Zealanders' positions. The Germans are bringing immense numbers of guns of every calibre into the struggle, but we are combating them pretty adequately. Thus last night a heavy bombardment broke out east of Villers and Brelon-maux and there were reasons to believe that it was a preliminary to an infantry attack. We retaliated with such intensity that the enemy bombardment died down, nothing transpiring.

A captured airmen attributes our greater aerial activity to the greater numbers and superior qualities of the British machines and consequently the Germans cannot afford to risk flying over our territory to any great extent. The enemy is employing machine guns operated by trained teams in very large numbers. He is also losing them in very large numbers.

Important German Losses.

London, April 8.

A French communiqué says:—Our artillery stopped attempted enemy attacks in the region of Hargard in Santena. We caught concentrations of troops at various points of the front north of Montdidier.

A strong German attack on the right of the Meuse, north-east of Hill 344, was repulsed after sharp fighting. The enemy's losses were important. We took twenty prisoners.

Seven aeroplanes and two balloons were brought down and five tons of bombs were dropped on cantonments in the Roche region.

German Hopes and Disappointments.

London, April 8.

According to Reuter's correspondent at New York, the War Department's weekly review states:—The general strategical and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favourable. The enemy, at the opening of the third week of the offensive, is still far short of attaining his principal objectives. It is now evident that the German High Command contemplated overwhelming the British at the onset and driving a wedge in the Franco-British forces. The enemy fully expected to achieve this decision in the course of one great battle. The success of the plan depended on his ability to break through the British front and advance so rapidly that the Anglo-French Reserves would be unable to arrive in time to close up the breach and restore the order of the battle. The evidence of prisoners confirms that the enemy hoped to gain the line of the Somme on the evening of the first day. As a matter of fact, he took ten days to cover the ground he had expected to overrun in forty-eight hours. The stubbornness of the British resistance and the severe enemy casualties compelled the Germans to draw heavier reserves than they had anticipated. The Germans are now throwing fresh forces into the battle in an effort to secure some limited objectives. The Allied military machine, under the leadership of General Foch, is working with precise smoothness ensuring the greatest economy, harmony and efficiency in the use of all forces. The moral of the Allied troops remains high. The German offensive has not spent itself, and owing to the enemy's determination to gain some sort of success at any cost, the situation will continue to be uncertain for some time. However, the general strategic and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favourable and reports continue to indicate that the enemy contemplates an offensive in the Italian theatre of war, possibly along a broad front including the entire southern sector from the Upper Piave to Lake Garda.

Fine Work by Americans.

London, April 8.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, a despatch from the American front states that the enemy on Friday evening attempted at two points to raid the American trenches. The first attack was easily repulsed and the second allowed to approach close to the wire. Then fire was opened by the Americans, whose infantry immediately leapt into the trenches and drove back the assailants. The first German trench was cleared and the enemy compelled to retire to his support trenches. American artillery replied violently to German artillery and two German batteries were silenced.

The Bombardment of Paris.

London, April 8.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, an official message states:—The bursting of one of the long-range guns bombarding Paris is confirmed from a sure source of information. The bursting occurred on March 25 when a Lieutenant and nine men were killed. The long-range bombardment continued yesterday, but there were no victims.

British Line Advanced.

London, April 8.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, states:—We advanced our line slightly during the night on the south bank of the Somme and east of Vire-aux-Corbie. We took a few prisoners north of the Somme, near Neuville-Vitasse. There was increased hostile artillery fire during the night on the whole of the battle front. There is heavy gas-shelling between L'Isle and Le Bassac Canal and also east of Armentières.

The Guns Busy.

London, April 8.

A French communiqué states:—The night was marked by violent artillery actions, notably on the left bank of the Oise.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLE SITUATION.

The French Outlook.

London, April 8.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, a semi-official message states:—Up to the present there is no reason to regard the German attack on Hill 344 yesterday as indicating a general offensive in this sector. The Chauny-Bapaume affair does not seem to point to any new departure of a general nature. A great mass of German reserves is still moving towards Amiens, which is still the goal of the German High Command, though the latter is momentarily forced to interrupt the forward movement owing to exhaustion and the heavy losses of his troops.

CONSCRIPTION FOR IRELAND.

Home Rule as a Set-off?

London, April 8.

Lobbyists of the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Morning Post* state that the application of Conscription to Ireland may be contingent upon the report of the Convention and the offer of Home Rule by the Government.

The *Daily Chronicle* implores the Government not to make the grant of Home Rule conditional upon the adoption of Conscription.

MORE GERMAN INTRIGUE.

Tribal Leaders Urged to Massacre Allied Subjects.

London, April 8.

The Times correspondent at Tangier states that the Germans in Morocco have made proposals to Raisuli and other tribal leaders that in the event of a victory in France they should rise and revolt, massacre Allied subjects, declare the independence of Morocco and nominate a pro-German Sultan.

BOLO'S FINAL APPEAL REJECTED.

London, April 8.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris states that President Poincaré has rejected Bolo Pasha's final appeal.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLES IN FRANCE.

A Great French Military Feast.

London, April 7.

Reuter correspondent at French Headquarters reports on April 8: In the second battle beginning on Thursday we held the enemy and repulsed him in most places with heavy losses with troops entering the battle on March 25. The closing days of March were among the most critical of the war. The Germans had been stopped on the Oise and Somme but confronting them between Montdidier and Moreuil with a mere cordon barring the way was Apigny. Troops were rallied from a sector hundreds of miles distant as fast as possible and engaged the enemy as soon as they detrained. The General, carrying a carbine, with his staff, had arrived and were scouring in the battle-field with only a few cavalry patrols between them and the Boche. A Staff Major was actually killed engaging the German mounted troops. The first reinforcements arrived on March 25, but the main body were several days later. Meanwhile the enemy was preparing a grand attack. The moment was most critical for on March 27 nine miles of line were screened only by cavalry patrols and a few guns. The line was re-established on March 3 but held by only three French divisions. These had for four successive days to meet the shock of thirty enemy divisions. It is a sober fact that for those four days the General with three divisions held up ten times our numbers. There has been no finer military feat during the war. During the whole battle relief was impossible, yet fresh German divisions were thrown in daily. The enemy is fully exploiting his superiority in numbers by attacking in crushing strength, also always with fresh troops. As soon as an enemy division gains its objective it is withdrawn and its place taken by another.

A retiring division is reinforced, rests a few days then is again sent to battle. Hence within a week the First Guards Division was engaged on two different sectors. We still hold, essentially the line we held on the 26th March. The enemy hold Moreuil and a number of villages on the west bank of the Avre but they are dominated by the heights we retain. We hold Grivesnes and the plateau despite determined attacks on March 28th, 29th and 31st. This fight is typical of what is occurring daily. The village was held by five hundred French infantry, commanded by a colonel who blocked the windows of the chateau with mattocks and took up a rifle to help the defenders. They repulsed three regiments of the First Prussian Guards Division, accounted the best in the German Army. The enemy came on in waves, pushed and fed by thick columns of infantry. The French fought them from tree to tree of the park back to the walls of the chateau, whereupon the colonel ordered a counter-attack. The Poilus, crying "Vive la France," charged. After a hideous mêlée among the trees, they drove the Germans from the park. Fighting against similar odds occurred on those four days along the whole Avre front. The enemy halted on the 31st for a breath and the attacks were renewed on the 4th inst., with fifteen divisions, including the Guards and Brandenburgers. The onslaught was repulsed with a slight loss of ground little more than the villages of Emilly, Raineville and Sauvilly. To-day the enemy is quiescent excepting for artillery activity, but the hill is expected to be short duration.

French Line More Solid.

Paris, April 7.

With reference to the French withdrawal at Abbeville south of Chauny in Barisis sector mentioned in last night's communiqué, it is semi-officially explained that the French line there formed a dangerous sector which the French High Command decided to reduce. The Germans believed they could catch the French napping by anticipating the movement and attacking the point. They were unable, however, to prevent the conclusion of the French manoeuvre and their attempt was as costly to them as it was to us. The withdrawal merely makes the French line more solid.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE BATTLES IN FRANCE.

Aerial Operations.

London, April 7.

Reporting on aviation, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig says: Our aeroplanes, watching the enemy movements, reported a hostile concentration southward of the Somme. Large formations immediately went out in the rain, and dropped over five hundred bombs and fired fifty thousand rounds on the assembled infantry. We brought down fifteen and drove down eleven. Sixteen of ours are not yet located many of which doubtless were forced to land behind our lines owing to the difficulty of finding their aerodromes in the heavy rain. The Canadian airmen are doing most valuable work in the present battle.

A wireless German official message says: We have captured Pierremont and Folembray.

Another German Attack Expected.

London, April 8.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing on the evening of the 7th, says: Local fighting has continued at various places along the British battlefield and there are sundry signs that the enemy is about to thrust again on a big scale. By the recent fighting north of the Somme the enemy endeavoured to improve his positions and possibly to secure a better jumping-off place. Between Meaux and Bapaume the German positions are very unfavourable to artillery movement, therefore there should be a big push to develop this region and only by such a great concentric attack upon Amiens can be carried out.

The infantry would soon outpace their gun supports if the enemy achieved further success. So far however their attempts have been almost entirely repulsed, invariably with very heavy losses. The attack of the 5th inst. was carried out by four divisions in waves having only a limited objective. Since the enemy, heavily gas-shelled, Auchonvillers before attacking and as the stuff hangs for days it is unlikely he would have employed it if he hoped to occupy the place. Last night, after twice laying an intense barrage to a considerable depth, the Germans attempted to advance north of Auchonvillers but were smothered by artillery and were unable to advance.

PREMIER'S MESSAGE TO INDIA.

London, April 7.

The Press Bureau announces that Mr. Lloyd George has sent a message to the Viceroy of India as follows: At this time when the intention of Germany's rulers to establish tyranny not only throughout Europe but in Asia has become transparently clear, I ask the Government and people of India to recollect their efforts. Thanks to the heroism of the British armies and their Allies the enemy's attempt on the West is being checked, but to prevent the menace spreading Eastward every lover of freedom and law must play his part. I have no doubt that India will add to the laurels already won and equip itself on an even greater scale than now as a bulwark which will save Asia from the tide of oppression and disorder which it is the enemy's object to achieve.

The Viceroy has replied that all India is stirred to the depths by the noble sacrifices of the British people in the cause of the world's freedom and the stern and unshakable resolution that those sacrifices evince. India, anxious yet confident, fully realises the great issues at stake and your trumpet call at this crisis will not fall on deaf ears. I feel confident that it will awake the Princes and people's leaders to a keener sense of the grave danger which, stemmed in Europe, now threatens to move eastwards. I look to them for the fullest effort and fullest sacrifice to safeguard the soil of their Motherland against all the attempts of a cruel and unscrupulous enemy and to secure the final triumph of the ideals of justice and honour for which the British Empire stands.

RUSSIAN DENUNCIATION OF JAPAN.

Petrograd, April 7.

The Council of Commissaries in a manifesto accuses Japan of striving to crush the Republic and seize Siberia and declares that Japan is a deadly enemy of the Republic. It says that the Council has demanded an explanation and warns the Allies that their replies will greatly influence the Council's foreign policy.

M. Joffe has been appointed Ambassador to Berlin and M. Kameneff to Vienna.

U. S. LIBERTY LOAN.

New York, April 7.

The first day's subscriptions to the Third Liberty Loan were three billion dollars. In New York and throughout the country they exceeded the subscriptions of the first days of the two former loans. Over one hundred millions was subscribed in New York. The subscriptions include the Bankers' Trust Company twenty-five millions, the National Park Bank twenty millions, the Corn Exchange Bank sixteen millions.

CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes under date of April 8 as follows:

The funeral of Ching P.K. Wong is indefinitely postponed pending the arrival of Lady Ching, who refuses to agree to a State burying ceremony and the location of the grave in Dutch Folly, while the members of the Special Parliament, by the what has been decided in the Parliament cannot be altered. It is reported that Lady Ching is very anxious to have the murderer brought to justice.

During a thunder storm on the afternoon of the 6th inst., two houses in the city were damaged by lightning and a girl was hurt.

Tong Chiyau, Tao-chun of Yunnan, has sent an official with \$500,000, with which to purchase munition from the arsenal of Shantung Yochow from Szochuan.

Sun Hang-ying has reported that 18 battalions are now fighting severely in the neighbourhood of Shantung. Tong's troops, the Loong's troops, are engaged in a fierce battle. The result is not yet known.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending April 6, 1918:

Receipts Aggregate for week 14 weeks.
This Year: \$13,111 191,671

Last Year: 13,142 189,067

Increase: 31

Decrease: 31

LINEAS ASHORE.

We are informed by the Messageries Maritimes that one of the Company's liners has gone to sea near Singapore during a heavy gale. All the passengers have been saved and the vessel, though damaged more or less seriously, is not in a dangerous condition.

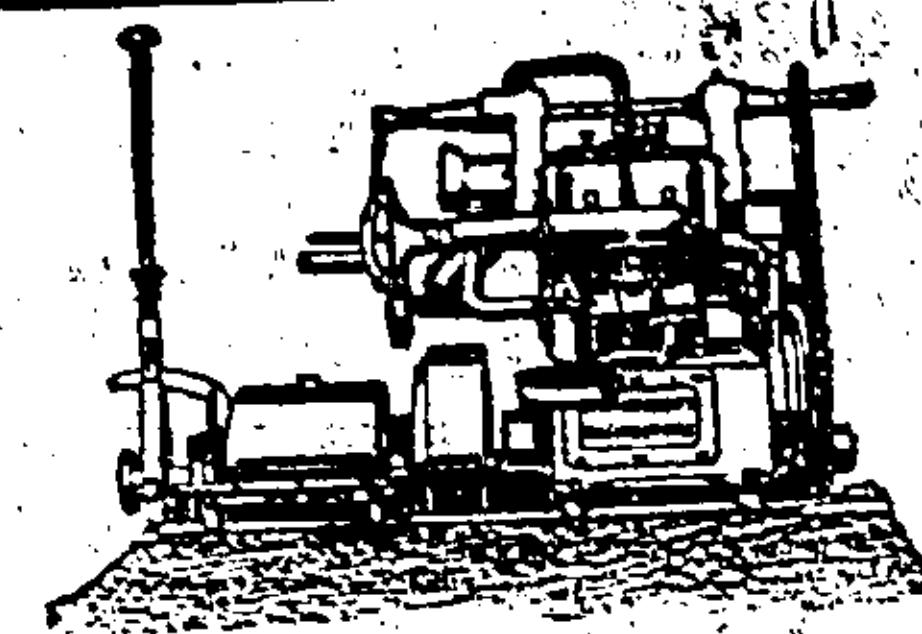
It is expected that the vessel will return about two months.

The liner *Asiatic* has

arrived at Hongkong.

The liner *Asiatic* has

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Mr. Oswald Stoll in a letter to the

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Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

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DEATHS.

WHYTE.—Died on April 9, 1918, at the Government Civil Hospital, Robert Whyte, late of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, and of Dumbarton, Scotland; aged 48 years. The funeral will pass the Monument at 5 p.m. to-morrow, April 10.

NEIL.—On March 28, died of wounds received in France, Lieutenant J. Neil, 7th Argylls, aged 20 years; formerly of Shanghai.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918.

THE ALLIES AND VLADIVOSTOK.

Instead of the vague reports—many of them manifestly exaggerated and some of them absurd—regarding the situation at Vladivostok we are now in receipt of facts based on official statements, which place a much clearer view before us. We now know that Japanese troops have landed in the port, and that to explain the landing Admiral Kato has issued a Proclamation to the effect that the reason for the presence of the troops is that order should be maintained. Surely, the state of affairs in Russia, Siberia, and Manchuria and particularly in the port of Vladivostok itself justified the action; and what impartial observers will probably conclude is that the Allies exhibited remarkable restraint in not doing long ago what they now have done. For it must be borne in mind that while Japan has taken the initiative in this matter, she is doing so purely because her geographical situation renders this step most expedient. Japan, it cannot be too strongly emphasised, is acting from purely unselfish motives—acting entirely with the concurrence and the approval of the Allies. That is shown by the fact that British troops have now also been landed.

Quite obviously the time was ripe for some such action on the part of the Allies, for apart from the fact that the very cosmopolitan population of Vladivostok was gradually becoming alarmed by the excesses that were daily being committed by the Bolshevik officials, who have assumed control of the port's affairs, there was the equally important justification in the fact that vast quantities of munitions—the property of the Allies—had accumulated at Vladivostok during the unsettled state of affairs throughout Russia. With these munitions the Bolsheviks refused to part, and with a view to strengthening their claim they had assembled as many Russian soldiers as they could muster and, what was infinitely worse, they had not scrupled to enlist the services of Austrian and German prisoners, which they were withdrawing from Siberian prisons for that purpose, and with whom they are now hand in glove, notwithstanding the bad faith shown by the Central Powers ever since the farcical Brestlitovsk peace negotiations. In the face of such facts the Allies had no alternative but to land troops, and the responsibility for the present state of affairs clearly rests with those that created the present unsettled situation.

With their usual obtuseness, the Bolsheviks at Petrograd have misconstrued the Allies' action, and, as will be seen in one of the latest telegrams, they are pouring down their wrath upon the heads of the Japanese. The argument of the Russian Council of Commissioners is to the effect that Japan is striving to crush the Russian Republic and seize Siberia. Nothing could be further from the truth. Japan, as any other of the Allies, would be very willing, even at this late hour, to assist Russia in any possible way, as a Republic or as any other kind of State, were she but to show a united front in attempting to throw off the yoke with which Germany has saddled her. The Bolsheviks will have quite enough to do to endeavour to set their house in order much nearer the heart of their unhappy country than is Vladivostok. Not without serious reflection and with good reason have the Allies landed at Vladivostok; and it need not be doubted that it will take much more than Bolshevik Manifestoes to cause them to alter their plans until their task has been successfully accomplished.

The Big Battle.

Judging by the telegrams to hand the British and French troops are more than holding their own in the spasmodic attacks to which the enemy's offensive now seems reduced. Since March 30th, as General Foch pointed out, the enemy's general attack has been completely stopped. Only at intervals has he attempted to proceed, and then only at certain points. The enemy's chagrin may be judged by the fact that he has failed to do in ten days what he hoped to do in forty-eight hours. And as is handsomely acknowledged in the War Review just issued at Washington, the enemy's plight is entirely owing to the splendid defence of the British. To say nothing of their having failed to reach Paris on April 1st, as General Hindenburg boasted that he could, the Germans were wholly unable to

drive a wedge through the British forces and likewise to prevent the Anglo-French reserve forces coming. Besides this, the enemy received such a smashing that he was compelled to draw much more heavily upon their reserves than he had anticipated. But, as is pointed out, the enemy's offensive is not yet spent, and doubtless he will endeavour to obtain some sort of success at no matter what cost. Meantime it is good to be assured that under the leadership of General Foch the Allied Military machine is working splendidly.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was \$3.0582.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the ninth anniversary of the death of Swinburne.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was \$3.0582.

Stole an Iron Cable.

Before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, at the Police Court, this morning, a Chinese was charged with stealing an iron cable from a coal-yard in Yau Ma Tei. Sergeant Murphy said that thefts of this nature were increasing. A fine of \$5, or 14 days' hard labour, was imposed.

Exporting Dollars.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, with exporting 180 silver dollars. Defendant said he had a permit for Japanese and Canton money. Revenue Officer Clarke said he had been requested by his Worship not to inflict a heavy penalty and not to confiscate the dollars. His Worship inflicted a fine of \$10.

Back Again.

At the Police Court this morning, a Chinese was charged with returning from banishment for big term had expired. Sergeant Peplow said the man

was banished from the Colony for a term of 20 years, three years ago. He had been banished three times already. The excuse defendant gave was that he was sick and returned to the Colony for treatment. His Worship remarked that if he returned to the Colony he would get more sick still. He would have to go to prison for 12 months.

Armed Robbery.

The police have received a report of an armed robbery which is alleged to have taken place at 137, Wanlu Street, Hongkong, last evening. It was stated that at about 8.35 p.m. six men, three of whom were armed with revolvers, and the others with daggers, entered the shop and stole from a drawer in the counter \$60 in notes and coins. The alarm was raised by one of the shop-keepers who sounded a Police whistle. The robbers ran away along Chatham Road and escaped along the railway in the direction of Mongkok.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

Alteration of Rules.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held last evening for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolution: "That the Rules of the Hongkong Cricket Club be altered so as to read as shown in the print signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of the Meeting."

Mr. F. Maitland presided and there were also present the following committee members—Mr. Roberton, Messrs. R. Hancock, E. A. Nisbet, M. Mase, T. E. Pearce, and P. M. Hodgson (Hon. Secretary).

The Chairman said:—The object of this meeting is to pass the resolution you have just heard with a view to the alteration of the rules of the Club. A copy of the rules as proposed to be altered have been in your hands for some time. The present rules were brought into force in 1912 and have now become out of date and in part impracticable. They have now been brought up to date but no drastic alterations have been made. The subscriptions remain the same, although the rule is somewhat differently worded. The only other point that calls for any comment is the insertion of a provision for the expulsion from the membership of the Club of those who fail and decline to pay their Club fees and debts. It is hoped however, that it may never be necessary to enforce this rule. The matter is now open for discussion. I therefore propose the resolution you have just heard read.

Mr. Nisbet seconded and the resolution carried unanimously.

DAY BY DAY.

Further Hearing at Shanghai.

Yesterday (says the *N. C. Daily News* of the 4th instant) at the Mixed Court, before Mr. Grant Jones, British Assessor, and Magistrate Kuan, the case was

THE CENTRAL ESTATES ACTION.

Further Hearing at Shanghai.

Yesterday (says the *N. C. Daily News* of the 4th instant) at the Mixed Court, before Mr. Grant Jones, British Assessor, and Magistrate Kuan, the case was

continued in which the Hongkong Central Estates, Ltd., sued

O. Struckmeyer, E. Siebert and

E. T. Siebert, partners in the

German firm of Siemsen and Co.,

for the sum of Hongkong

\$8,275.45 for the rent of their

offices in Queen's Building,

Hongkong, under a lease entered

into on July 1, 1913.

Mr. G. H. Wright appeared for the plaintiffs and the defendants appeared in person.

The defendant Struckmeyer, in answer to the Court, said that the defendants had nothing they wished to add to the written defence they submitted to the Court at the last hearing.

Mr. Wright said the defendant firm was wound up in October, 1914, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 28, 1914 which corresponded with the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916. That Act, and also the ordinance, made provision for winding up the businesses of alien enemies. It was necessary throughout his argument to bear in mind that the defendant concerned was a partnership and not a limited liability company. There was no question here as to the limitation of liability, the partners were jointly liable for the entire debts of the firms. There were certain recitals in the ordinance and the first one to which he would refer the Court was that it was necessary that certain alien enemies should be ordered to quit the Colony and that certain other alien enemies should be detained. Counsel took it that

defendants came under the first heading of alien enemies who were ordered to leave the Colony. The next recital was that it was necessary that provision should be made for winding up the affairs of alien enemies in order to prevent loss to them and other persons.

The ordinance was not entirely in the interests of non-enemy persons, but was passed to some extent in the interests of the enemies themselves.

The powers of the liquidator were then defined and there was also provision for the meeting of expenses incurred by the liquidator in the course of such winding up. Then section 10 said, in short, that any liabilities of alien enemies not satisfied by the liquidator still remained in existence and persons who were interested in such liabilities still had their rights as against the alien enemies.

Counsel then went on to say that the question for the Court to decide was whether the liquidation of an enemy firm under the provisions of the ordinance extinguished their liabilities under covenants of the lease.

The Assessor:—Does the liquidation put an end to the contract, in other words?

Mr. Wright:—Yes.

Counsel went on to say that in the case of an ordinary bankruptcy or liquidation in the case of a company it might be argued that the lease was at an end, but the present instance was not such a case. It was just as if a partnership of pre-war days of its own accord decided to wind up its business.

The Assessor:—I don't think the Court is quite with you on that point. There is a compulsory element in this winding up, which is more analogous to a liquidation in bankruptcy than to a voluntary liquidation.

Mr. Wright said that supposing there was an order of a Court to wind up a partnership business that would not release partners of their liability. The only difference here was that the liquidation was not at the instigation of the partners themselves, nor by order of a Court, but by virtue of the provisions of a particular enactment. The question was, did that make any difference? There was no question here of the confirmation of the

property of the defendants and the ordinance did not interfere with the lease in any event and it might have run out by assignment or by means of a sub-tenant.

The Assessor:—The Court held that the completion of the liquidation did not extinguish the liability under the lease, in re-Dickmann, 24 T.L.R., p. 183.

Counsel added that the rents in this case was not satisfied by the liquidator because there were no assets from which to satisfy it.

Judgment was reserved.

HONGKONG TENNIS LEAGUE.

The Annual Report.

Dr. Lindsay Woods, Hon.

Secretary of the above League,

in his annual report, says:

There were two Divisions of the

League as during the previous

season. The following Clubs

constituted Division I:—Van-

guard, Hongkong Cricket Club

(A), University (A), Chinese

Recreation Club (A), and United

Services Club, Kowloon Cricket

Club (A). The following Clubs

constituted Division II:—Gra-

zeng, Naval, Civil Service,

Ladies' Recreation Club,

Kowloon Cricket Club (B),

University (B), Chinese Recre-

ation Club (B), Club de Recre-

ation, Chinese Y. M. C. A., and

Kowloon Dock Yard.

Two new Clubs, namely,

Kowloon Dock

Yard and Naval Yard, were wel-

comed to Division II. They took

the places of Olympic and

Wigwam who were, unfor-

tunately, unable to enter teams

owing to diminution in their

membership. It is to be hoped

that they will be able to enter

this season. It is to be regretted

that some of the Clubs in Division

II did not complete their fixtures,

and the Committee feel that the

attention of Club Secretaries

should again be drawn to this,

in order that they may do their

utmost to complete the fixture

list in future.

The tennis in both Divisions of

the League during the season

reached a high standard of

excellence which was maintained

throughout the season, and al-

though the Club Secretaries won

the Championship of Division II

comfortably, there was a hard

SHIP'S OFFICER'S DEATH. THE GERMAN COLONIST AS SPY.

The Result of the Enquiry.

Mr. Dyer Bell, at the Magistrate this morning, gave his decision in the enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of a Dutch ship's officer named Michael Vande Putte, who was Chief Officer of the ss. Von Wiesroth, which took place on March 22.

Mr. Leo Longinotto again appeared for the Crown, and Mr. F. X. D'Almeida for Dr. Ton Toon-cheng.

His Worship said:—My verdict in this enquiry is that deceased died from carbonic acid poisoning, being self-administered, without a proper knowledge of the approximate dose to be taken. My verdict is "Death from misadventure." In the course of this enquiry Mr. Stapleton, who is a registered person under the Poisons Ordinance has admitted that he sold to Dr. Ton Toon-cheng 20 grains of cantharidin, which is a poison, without complying fully with Section 12 of the "Sale of Poisons Ordinance. This provides that the seller shall, before delivery, make an entry in a book kept for the purpose stating in addition to other particulars for what purpose it is required. It is highly important that this legislation should be complied with, and in my opinion Mr. Stapleton has rendered himself liable to a severe penalty. Dr. Ton Toon-cheng said that he had shown the poison to the Chief Officer and then removed the labels from the bottle, after which he put it in the dispensary and did not put it under lock and key, although he was aware that the Chief Officer himself had a key, that he had seen the bottle and knew there was cantharidin on board, and desired it for his own use. Dr. Ton Toon-cheng's conduct is marked by very grave negligence. It would seem the poison which caused the death of the Chief Officer came from the dispensary of the Von Wiesroth. I do not find it proved as a fact that Dr. Ton Toon-cheng administered it to him.

GOLE.

Some Competition Results.

The final for the Wodehouse Cup was played off at Fealing on Saturday, 8th instant, Lady Eeo Davies and Mrs. Mustard beating Mrs. Carlton and Mrs. Goodman by 3 up and 2 to play.

The Captain's Cup is to be played at Happy Valley from 22nd to 27th April inclusive. Owing to absences of course, three-quarters of handicap only to be taken.

Inter-Hong Match.

A most interesting Inter-Hong match was played on Saturday last, between Wai-fong and Tai-ko which resulted in a draw. It was a very fine contest, though played in bad weather, and Tai-ko were fortunate in having the services of Lawson, who was champion of Shanghai a year ago. Following are the scores, the opposing players meeting as indicated by the numerals:—

H. K. and S. B. C.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 | 191 | 192 | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 | 201 | 202 | 203 | 204 | 205 | 206 | 207 | 208 | 209 | 210 | 211 | 212 | 213 | 214 | 215 | 216 | 217 | 218 | 219 | 220 | 221 | 222 | 223 | 224 | 225 | 226 | 227 | 228 | 229 | 230 | 231 | 232 | 233 | 234 | 235 | 236 | 237 | 238 | 239 | 240 | 241 | 242 | 243 | 244 | 245 | 246 | 247 | 248 | 249 | 250 | 251 | 252 | 253 | 254 | 255 | 256 | 257 | 258 | 259 | 260 | 261 | 262 | 263 | 264 | 265 | 266 | 267 | 268 | 269 | 270 | 271 | 272 | 273 | 274 | 275 | 276 | 277 | 278 | 279 | 280 | 281 | 282 | 283 | 284 | 285 | 286 | 287 | 288 | 289 | 290 | 291 | 292 | 293 | 294 | 295 | 296 | 297 | 298 | 299 | 300 | 301 | 302 | 303 | 304 | 305 | 306 | 307 | 308 | 309 | 310 | 311 | 312 | 313 | 314 | 315 | 316 | 317 | 318 | 319 | 320 | 321 | 322 | 323 | 324 | 325 | 326 | 327 | 328 | 329 | 330 | 331 | 332 | 333 | 334 | 335 | 336 | 337 | 338 | 339 | 340 | 341 | 342 | 343 | 344 | 345 | 346 | 347 | 348 | 349 | 350 | 351 | 352 | 353 | 354 | 355 | 356 | 357 | 358 | 359 | 360 | 361 | 362 | 363 | 364 | 365 | 366 | 367 | 368 | 369 | 370 | 371 | 372 | 373 | 374 | 375 | 376 | 377 | 378 | 379 | 380 | 381 | 382 | 383 | 384 | 385 | 386 | 387 | 388 | 389 | 390 | 391 | 392 | 393 | 394 | 395 | 396 | 397 | 398 | 399 | 400 | 401 | 402 | 403 | 404 | 405 | 406 | 407 | 408 | 409 | 410 | 411 | 412 | 413 | 414 | 415 | 416 | 417 | 418 | 419 | 420 | 421 | 422 | 423 | 424 | 425 | 426 | 427 | 428 | 429 | 430 | 431 | 432 | 433 | 434 | 435 | 436 | 437 | 438 | 439 | 440 | 441 | 442 | 443 | 444 | 445 | 446 | 447 | 448 | 449 | 450 | 451 | 452 | 453 | 454 | 455 | 456 | 457 | 458 | 459 | 460 | 461 | 462 | 463 | 464 | 465 | 466 | 467 | 468 | 469 | 470 | 471 | 472 | 473 | 474 | 475 | 476 | 477 | 478 | 479 | 480 | 481 | 482 | 483 | 484 | 485 | 486 | 487 | 488 | 489 | 490 | 491 | 492 | 493 | 494 | 495 | 496 | 497 | 498 | 499 | 500 | 501 | 502 | 503 | 504 | 505 | 506 | 507 | 508 | 509 | 510 | 511 | 512 | 513 | 514 | 515 | 516 | 517 | 518 | 519 | 520 | 521 | 522 | 523 | 524 | 525 | 526 | 527 | 528 | 529 | 530 | 531 | 532 | 533 | 534 | 535 | 536 | 537 | 538 | 539 | 540 | 541 | 542 | 543 | 544 | 545 | 546 | 547 | 548 | 549 | 550 | 551 | 552 | 553 | 554 | 555 | 556 | 557 | 558 | 559 | 560 | 561 | 562 | 563 | 564 | 565 | 566 | 567 | 568 | 569 | 570 | 571 | 572 | 573 | 574 | 575 | 576 | 577 | 578 | 579 | 580 | 581 | 582 | 583 | 584 | 585 | 586 | 587 | 588 | 589 | 590 | 591 | 592 | 593 | 594 | 595 | 596 | 597 | 598 | 599 | 600 | 601 | 602 | 603 | 604 | 605 | 606 | 607 | 608 | 609 | 610 | 611 | 612 | 613 | 614 | 615 | 616 | 617 | 618 | 619 | 620 | 621 | 622 | 623 | 624 | 625 | 626 | 627 | 628 | 629 | 630 | 631 | 632 | 633 | 634 | 635 | 636 | 637 | 638 | 639 | 640 | 641 | 642 | 643 | 644 | 645 | 646 | 647 | 648 | 649 | 650 | 651 | 652 | 653 | 654 | 655 | 656 | 657 | 658 | 659 | 660 | 661 | 662 | 663 | 664 | 665 | 666 | 667 | 668 | 669 | 670 | 671 | 672 | 673 | 674 | 675 | 676 | 677 | 678 | 679 | 680 | 681 | 682 | 683 | 684 | 685 | 686 | 687 | 688 | 689 | 690 | 691 | 692 | 693 | 694 | 695 | 696 | 697 | 698 | 699 | 700 | 701 | 702 | 703 | 704 | 705 | 706 | 707 | 708 | 709 | 710 | 711 | 712 | 713 | 714 | 715 | 716 | 717 | 718 | 719 | 720 | 721 | 722 | 723 | 724 | 725 | 726 | 727 | 728 | 729 | 730 | 731 | 732 | 733 | 734 | 735 | 736 | 737 | 738 | 739 | 740 | 741 | 742 | 743 | 744 | 745 | 746 | 747 | 748 | 749 | 750 | 751 | 752 | 753 | 754 | 755 | 756 | 757 | 758 | 759 | 760 | 761 | 762 | 763 | 764 | 765 | 766 | 767 | 768 | 769 | 770 | 771 | 772 | 773 | 774 | 775 | 776 | 777 | 778 | 779 | 780 | 781 | 782 | 783 | 784 | 785 | 786 | 787 | 788 | 789 | 790 | 791 | 792 | 793 | 794 | 795 | 796 | 797 | 798 | 799 | 800 | 801 | 802 | 803 | 804 | 805 | 806 | 807 | 808 | 809 | 810 | 811 | 812 | 813 | 814 | 815 | 816 | 817 | 818 | 819 | 820 | 821 | 822 | 823 | 824 | 825 | 826 | 827 | 828 | 829 | 830 | 831 | 832 | 833 | 834 | 835 | 836 | 837 | 838 | 839 |
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NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	Aki Maru T. 12,500	SAT. 20th 1st Apr. at 11 a.m.
	Tango Maru T. 13,500	SAT. 18th 1st May at 11 a.m.
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Telephone Nos. 292 & 293.

1st April, 1917.

Omitting Manila, Manacor.

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WAR CHARITIES.

Hongkong's Splendid Contribution.

A meeting of the War Charities Committee was held last evening in the Chamber of Commerce room, City Hall, over which His Excellency the Governor presided. He was supported by Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp K.C. (Chairman of Executive Committee), Hon. Mr. E. R. Halifax (Hon. Secretary), Mr. N. J. Stabb (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. H. C. Sandford (Assistant Hon. Treasurer), Hon. Mr. Lau Chiu Pak, Hon. Mr. D. Landale, Hon. Mr. Ho Fook and Mr. H. W. Looker. There were also present: Hon. Mr. P. H. Holvoeck, Mr. S. H. Dodwell, Mr. E. V. D. Parr, Mr. W. L. Patten, Mr. A. B. Lowe, Mr. R. Sutherland, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Rev. J. Kirk Macconachie, Mr. J. Planner, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Professor Middleton Smith, Mr. H. A. Cartwright, Mr. Chan Kaiming, Mr. Ng Hon Tse, Mr. J. D. Wright, Mr. J. McPherson, Mr. E. Sils Nettie and others.

Circulated among those present was a list of the charities which had benefited from the Fund, (which has already been published) showing that nearly \$700,000 has been distributed among some sixty institutions.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., said that the present Executive Committee had been responsible for the distribution of the Funds for more than two years, or ever since the beginning in January, 1916, when the Prince of Wales Fund was closed. The report before the meeting covered the whole of what had been done up to the 15th of last month. The receipts showed that altogether a total of \$698,000 had been raised in that period for war charities. To that total Sir Paul Chater had added the results of a collection he had made round the mercantile houses of the Colony, which was over \$165,000 and which he hoped to raise to two lakhs. For that splendid contribution they were indebted to the generosity of Hongkong firms and also to the successful efforts of Sir Paul. It would thus be seen that very soon the contributions to the fund would reach a total of \$1,000,000 (Applause). With regard to the expenditure the Executive Committee had proceeded on three lines. The first was the direct allocations of the Executive Committee, which formed the bulk of what had been given. The second was allocations to minor, but none the less useful, charities which had been made at the discretion of their London representative, Mr. Murray Stewart, to whose help they owed much. The last method of distribution had been the passing on of specially earmarked subscriptions, and those comparatively small sums accounted for the small and uneven sums appearing in the accounts. With regard to the work of Mr. Stewart in London, the Committee early found it necessary to have a representative in London. In these days of slow mails it was almost impossible to keep the necessary prompt touch with new developments and ascertain the usefulness of certain small organisations. Mr. Stewart had done that for them and had done it exceedingly well (Applause). He had distributed altogether between two and three thousand pounds among minor war charities, no individual sum having exceeded \$100. He had also ascertained information about the larger charities which had helped the Committee in great measure. At first he had the great assistance of Dr. Atkinson, but since the latter's death Mr. Stewart had done the work alone. Mr. Stewart's method of distribution, as would be seen by a letter he had written, was on the same lines as followed here. The letter stated that anything original in the way of War Charities was now past and it was just a matter of keeping going those already established. So in the main he was keeping to old friends which he knew something about. He (the speaker) thought that Mr. Stewart's selections had been exceedingly good ones and he certainly spared himself no trouble in the distribution of the gifts. When dealing with tobacco and cigarettes he put the consignment all into packets and thus

sent them to the men. That had entailed a great deal of labour and the best thanks of the Committee were due to Mr. Stewart for what he had done. (Applause). As regards the Executive's own allocations they had been as wide as possible to the most useful objects, the committee selecting those charities which were doing the most immediate and practical work. Details of the allocations had been regularly published and as could be seen, local claims came first. The item in the accounts, Materials for the Working Parties, was something over \$100,000. Hongkong working parties were organised as a branch of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild with Lady May as President and Mrs. Stabb as Vice-President. Those parties included practically all the ladies in the Colony and the enormous quantities of useful articles which their indefatigable labours had produced had been sent away to the various fronts and hospitals. Many letters of thanks had been published in the press showing how valuable those articles were. In the important matter of shipment they had to thank various shipping companies, especially the C.P.O.S. and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for their generosity in sending the parcels free of charge. (Applause). They had made the Royal Flying Corps Hospital a standing charge on the Fund of \$200 a month for the support of the Hongkong ward which was started two years ago and which they had undertaken to maintain until the end of the war. They were also giving further \$1,000 a year towards the general funds of the Hospital. The item of \$24,000 for the British Red Cross was due to the One Day efforts and the Committee did not add further from their General Fund except specially earmarked contributions. The last One Day raised over £16,000 as against £5,000 the previous year. That was the largest amount yet realised on one day although all they had hoped that the forthcoming St. George's Day would beat it. To prisoners of war they had given over £5,000. Although the arrangements in England at one time overlapped they were now all organised under a central committee. Mr. Halifax had many postcards from recipients showing that but for those articles the men would in many cases have gone short of even necessary food. There was only one other item that he thought needed reference to and that was the French Red Cross to which they had given over £2,000. That organisation was perhaps more in need of help than the British Red Cross and was worthy of their best support. It would be noticed that there were comparatively few allocations to funds for sailors, either naval or mercantile, who had played so splendid a part in the war. A King George's Fund for sailors had lately been established, and no doubt a substantial sum would be allocated to this from our Fund. Mr. Sharp concluded by saying that several members of the Executive Committee were away at the present time and that it was felt there was a need for fresh blood being introduced. He then submitted the report and accounts for approval.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holvoeck, in rising to second the adoption of the report and accounts, said he wished to endorse the remarks which had fallen from the Hon. Mr. Sharp, upon the magnificent sum which had been raised up to the present in the Colony, which already, when coupled with the Prince of Wales Fund, amounted to over a million dollars. The sum was one of which they might well be proud, as having done in some small measure their part thus far, but he thought they would all agree with him that the greatest call lay before them in the comparative shelter and safety which was found in Hongkong they owed a still greater debt of gratitude to those who were fighting a grim battle for the very existence of the British nation. (Applause). In recognition of this tremendous fight which was even now being fought on French soil they were desirous of putting forward greater efforts than ever before, in payment of the sacrifice of those fighting on their behalf, because they could not do so

full what it is to have America with us in this war. (Applause). In conclusion I wish on your behalf to express our sorrow at the loss we have sustained in the untimely death of Dr. Atkinson and our great appreciation both for him and Mr. Murray Stewart for the splendid work they have done for us in London. (Applause). His Excellency concluded that he understood that the Chinese members of the General Committee had some proposal to make for extending the work among the Chinese community. (Applause). He would be glad if members would suggest additional names other than those he had read, either for the General Committee or the representative list.

Hon. Mr. Holvoeck suggested

that Mr. Sinclair's name should be added as representing the stage and His Excellency also added the name of Mr. E. V. D. Parr.

Mr. Lau Chiu Pak then read the following list of names, saying that those gentlemen would no doubt be of great assistance to the General Committee: Messrs. Tong Yat-chuen and his colleagues of the Tung Wah Hospital, Tung Ping-cheng and his colleagues of the P. Leung-kuk, Chiu Shan-son, Chan Lok-chuen, Lo Ket-ping, Wong Kam-fuk, Lo Chueh-shiu, Chan Yee-ting, Ip Sau-chi, Ip Lan-chuen, Chan Ten-shun, Tong Chi-ning, Kam Yat-hai, Kam Chiu-nam, Leung Iu-kong, Li Shan-fan, Tee Yam-chi, Chan Sek-shun, Au Chak-man, Lo Chung-ka, Cheuk-hing, Lai Ching-hie, Chan Fang-shang, Li Kit-min, Yeung Tsz-ting, Ho Wing, M. K. Lo, Mok Kam-sang, Ho Kwong, Leung Yan-po, S. W. Tao, Chan Kang-yus, Chan Chik-yue, R. H. Kotewall, Sham Pak-ting, To See-tuan, Ma Yuk-shan, Chan Ha, Kwok-lok, Yan Sui-chi, Kwok Sui-lai, Kok Po-sai, Li Sui-kam, Wong Siu-tong, Se Fat-sai, Chan Cheuk-hing, Yue Po-shang, Lau Iu-fong, Chia Chan-sam, Chan Suet-nam, Lo Cho-shun, Chan Tse-fan, Wong Sue-ham, Li Yan-chuen.

His Excellency said that although the Committee was supposed to be limited to British subjects only, the gentlemen whom Mr. Lau Chiu Pak had nominated would prove of great assistance and the Committee most gratefully accepted their services. He asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. H. A. Cartwright proposed that Mr. A. W. Smith's name be added to the General Committee. The list as completed was then adopted by the meeting unanimously.

This was all the business of the general meeting.

The Committee then sat to elect an executive. His Excellency pointing out that it had been found in the past that the Executive was somewhat unwieldy. The General Committee in future would have more work to do if they were going to adopt the suggestion that the representatives of different institutions and one or two districts were going to busy themselves with organising and increasing the monthly subscription list. He suggested that the Executive should be composed of the following:—Chairman, the Treasurer, Mr. N. J. Stabb; the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. C. Sandford; the Secretary, Hon. Mr. Halifax; and Rev. J. Kirk Macconachie, Mr. R. M. Dyer, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Hon. Mr. Lau Chiu Pak, Hon. Mr. Ho Fook. He thought that would be a strong working committee. The Hon. Mr. Sharp, on medical advice, was soon to leave the Colony for a short time only they hoped, and he suggested that Hon. Mr. D. Landale would make a worthy successor, although he would find his position no sinecure.

The meeting agreed to this constitution of the Executive, after which the meeting closed.

Sir L. S. Jameson's Will.

The value of the estate of Sir Leander Star Jameson, Bart., is sworn at \$45,082. The testator left the whole of the property to his two brothers or in the event of either of them predeceasing him, then to the survivor. Only one brother, Mr. Middleton Jameson, survives. The will contains fewer than 150 words.

DOCTRINE OF THE FUTURE LIFE.

5. Faith and Sight.

Notes of a sermon by the Rev. J. Kirk Macconachie at Union Church on Sunday Morning:—

"We walk by faith, not by sight" — 2 Cor. 5:8.

A symposium co-ordinating scientific, psychical and biblical research on the subject of immortality was lately published in London, and I take from a review

an extract from an essay by a Dr. Hadfield on "The Mind and the Brain." His conclusion is that the mind is not dependent on the brain for existence but simply uses it as an instrument, and says further that "for the present, so far as Science is concerned, life after the grave is not a proved fact, but the evidence is sufficient to justify faith in it." Such faith, he goes on, is often looked upon as specifically religious function, and suggests to the casual observer a process of "Swallowing what is incredible," but faith, he says, is just the religious counter-part of the "hypothesis" of the scientist, without which research would be impossible.

That supposition about faith being the swallowing of the incredible is widespread and infinitely mischievous. The Church is partly to blame, by presenting its doctrines, or some of them, in forms which defy intellectual comprehension. The casual observer also is to blame, for casual observation, which leads to nothing worth while in ordinary affairs, can scarcely be expected to indicate the path to eternal life.

The first and chief commandment is that we love the Lord with the mind, no less than with other faculties. Obedience therefore, so far from honouring God, deprives Him of His due. Faith is not the negation or suppression of the mind, it is an activity of the mind. It is a caricature of Christian faith to suppose it as the swallowing of things incredible. It is, in Bible language, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The writer of these definitions would have agreed that life after the grave is not a proved fact but one with sufficient justifying evidence.

Sir Oliver Lodge and certain other men of scientific eminence go farther and affirm that the thing is demonstrated in the strict scientific sense, but few of us I think, can take that view. The Apostle Paul believed there was cogent evidence and one (1 Cor. 15) he marshals and displays it, evidence from historic occurrences, from natural analogy, moral instinct, and the faithfulness of God. But when all is said, he knows that his daily life with Christ is a walk by faith. In so far as material contact or sense-communication go, he is "Absent from the Lord," just as we are. For light and strength he must look not to things seen but to things unseen.

New that is still true. If a man demands that I am to prove to him the reality of a spiritual world as one might that of another continent or another planet, I reply that I do not believe it can be done.

There are competent thinkers who take another view, but, as far as I can judge, God has not yet seen fit to make the eternal world a "proved fact" in the strict sense recognised in physical science. It is to be presumed there are good reasons for this Divine reserve, and I cannot but think that the longer we live in the fellowship of Christ the less anxious we are that the reserve should be broken.

It may be natural to think that "heaven" and "hell" were visible to the senses, people would live in a way to win the one and avoid the other. I once heard a Manchester workman, arguing on this very subject, remark that the visibility of Strangeways' gaol did seem to keep people out of it. True, and if it did you would have no guarantee that those whom the right deterred from crime were really better men. Keeping out of prison is not a question of possessing character but of observing conventions. Remember the parable who says that Lazarus died but was sent to warn his five brethren

"that they come not to this place of torment" — "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." It is quite possible that, granted the apparition, the five might have altered more or less their way of life. But at heart they might have been even worse than before — hypocritical, self-righteous, with enough "religion" to turn the humanity out of them, but not to plant the love of God in them. But when shall we learn that reforming people is not the something as improving them?

Turning to a more grateful aspect of the matter, it is inevitable that we should long at times for some tangible, indisputable, assurance of the spiritual realities in which we believe. Touch of hand now vanished — sound of voice now stilled — the poet does not misrepresent our human yearning, and what a difference, we sometimes think, if it could be gratified if but for a moment! Well, if God saw it would be for our good it would be gratified, and we need not assert that there have never been cases in which it has not been gratified in part. But for the most part "It is good that a man should hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord,"

That supposition about faith being the swallowing of the incredible is widespread and infinitely mischievous. The Church is partly to blame, by presenting its doctrines, or some of them, in forms which defy intellectual comprehension. The casual observer also is to blame, for casual observation, which leads to nothing worth while in ordinary affairs, can scarcely be expected to indicate the path to eternal life.

That is all the business of the general meeting.

The Committee then sat to elect an executive. His Excellency pointing out that it had been found in the past that the Executive was somewhat unwieldy.

The General Committee in future

HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

Eighty Cases of Spotted Fever Last Week.

The weekly health return shows that during the week ended on the 6th instant there were 80 cases of spotted fever, with 60 deaths. The survivors were one Portuguese and the rest Chinese. There were also three cases of enteric fever (one English and the rest Chinese) with one death; and two cases of small-pox (both Chinese) of which one died fatally.

For the forty-eight hours ended yesterday there were 21 cases of spotted fever (all Chinese) with 19 deaths; one non-fatal occurrence of small-pox (Chinese) and three non-fatal cases of enteric fever (two British and one Japanese).

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to day by Mr. F. O. Jenkins, C. B. E., state:

Requisitions for fresh issues of summer uniform and for boots must be in writing to Equipment Officer or before Monday, the 15th instant.

Service Rifles.

All members in possession of Service rifles are ordered to return same to Armoury at Central on or before Friday, 12th instant.

Rifles slings are to be returned to this office before the 13th instant.

might be expected to make important and illuminating additions to our knowledge. But they never do.

Further, speaking as a Christian, I am struck by the fact that we hear little or nothing about Christ in most of those alleged revelations from the other side. Yet Christ is the way, the truth and the life. By Him we come unto the Father. Whatever heaven may be He is the centre of it, and for those of us at present to whom He is all in all, no perfect state is conceivable of which He is not the Centre. "I go," said He, "to prepare a place for you," and while the words are of course figurative they are not meaningless. Then also the state of existence suggested through the "mediums" is scarcely one which offers much attraction. It seems, generally, to have not a little in common with the vague, unsatisfying land of shades which the ancients assigned to their departed. We are told, e.g., that the young lives taken in the war are now eagerly beating at their barriers to get into touch with us here, distressed because we fail to seek them. I do not believe word of it. It is closer to good sense and the spirit of the gospel to think of them abiding contented in companionship and discipleship with the Shepherd of souls, who in the days of His flesh drew young men around Him and trained them for His uses. Our own training is in progress here, and we can conceive nothing higher and nothing happier than that there should be proceeding yonder. Christian discipleship and service are the most satisfying human lot in this world, and if there is truth in the gospel they form the satisfaction and of the hereafter: — "They follow the Lamb whither soever He goeth" even as the Master said Himself, "My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life, and no one is able to pluck them out of my hand."

In their sorrow and distraction to-day many bereaved families are said to be turning to those various alleged means of assuring our trembling hearts that the soul outlasts the death of the body, and personality perduces elsewhere than here. There is a better way, long known to us in Christ. Had that been followed more faithfully in the bright past there would be less stumbling in the present cloudy and dark day. "Return," says the voice Divine, "to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." Live more in the fellowship and service of the Master and you will hanker less and less for the "proof" the senses crave for, and will come more and more to understand in the innocent heart how true was the deep saying of the Master to His once-troubled disciple, "Because I have seen Me has that believed." Blessed are they that have not seen but yet have believed.

THE RACECOURSE DISASTER.

CONCLUDING STAGE OF THE ENQUIRY.

POINTED ADDRESSES TO THE JURY.

The concluding stage of the enquiry into the Racecourse disaster was reached yesterday afternoon, when the jury was addressed by Mr. Bowley and Mr. Leo D'Almada. Yes, today we gave a brief summary of Mr. Bowley's earlier points, and we now give his speech more fully—

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (for the match contractors See Hop) Said: In his opening remarks the Attorney-General informed you that technically you are here to enquire into the cause of the death of a single person, but he reminded you that over 500 persons had lost their lives in the same disaster. He also invited you to criticise any Government departments concerned, and to advise the Government as to measures to be adopted in the future. The scope of this enquiry is, therefore, much wider than an ordinary inquest, and as my clients, the match contractors, are not only involved in the disaster, but are interested in establishing the fact that with proper precautions matches can be rendered reasonably safe, I propose in my remarks to you to allow myself more latitude than if I were merely defending them from a possible criminal charge.

But the scope of this enquiry has certain limits beyond which neither the Government nor the Attorney-General can authorise you to go. You are not authorised to enquire into the civil liabilities of the parties implicated, whether such liabilities arise out of their contractual relationships, or from any tortious act or neglect on their part; therefore, I do not propose to discuss the question of the civil liability of any person or department; those questions may hereafter be discussed in another place, and it would not be proper for this tribunal to express any opinion upon them.

It is your duty to find the cause of death, and if you were satisfied that there had been criminal negligence on the part of any person or persons, and that such criminal negligence was the immediate cause of death, you could bring in a verdict of manslaughter upon which that person or persons would be committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

Such a verdict is a very serious matter and should only be returned if you are satisfied upon positive legal evidence of the criminal negligence. Owing to the enlargement of the scope of the enquiry, a great many statements have been made which would not be admissible in a Court of Law, however useful they may be to you in pronouncing that criticism which you have been invited to pronounce. In arriving at a verdict, therefore, you should discard all theoretical and hearsay evidence, and consider only those facts which have been properly proved before you, but you may add to your verdict in a ride any expression of opinion with reference to any matter connected with the disaster provided you do not encroach upon the province of the Civil Law Courts.

A very clear summary of the Law of Criminal Negligence is to be found in Halsbury's "Laws of England" under the title Criminal Law, pp. 1182. It is as follows:—

"A person upon whom the law imposes any duty, or who has taken upon himself any duty, tending to the preservation of life, and who grossly neglects to perform that duty or performs it with gross negligence and thereby causes the death of another person, is guilty of manslaughter. What amount of negligence is to be regarded as gross is a question of degree for the jury, depending on the circumstances of each particular case. The law does not require the utmost caution that can be used; it is sufficient if reasonable precaution, and what is usual and ordinary in such cases, be taken."

"To render such a person guilty of manslaughter the negligence must have been the direct and immediate cause of the death, and there must have been personal misconduct or personal negligence on the part of the accused; he is not responsible criminally, if the death was directly

caused in his absence by the negligence of his servants or others."

"It is no defence that the death was caused by the negligence of others as well as of the prisoner; if death be occasioned by the act or default of several they are all guilty of manslaughter; but if the particular negligence imputed to the prisoner was not the proximate and efficient cause of the death, he cannot be convicted."

Now the persons upon whom a duty was imposed, or who took upon themselves a duty in connection with the preservation of the lives of the visitors to the match sheds may be divided into three groups:

(a) The Government and its officers.
(b) The Lessees, and their assistants.
(c) The Contractors and their employees.

Now I submit that the Government only exists for the benefit of the public, whose servants it is, and the special departments concerned with the safety of the public in Hongkong:

(1) The Public Works Department, which includes the Building and Water Authorities.

(2) The Police Department, which includes the Fire Brigade.

It is obviously the duty of the Public Works Department to provide as far as possible for the safety and convenience of the public and for the preservation of the property of the public; whilst it is the duty of the Police and Fire Brigade to endeavour to protect the persons and property of the public from the malicious or careless acts of individuals.

My clients as members of the public were entitled, I submit, to look to these two "departments" for reasonable advice and guidance in the design and construction of the match sheds, and for protection of their property from improper use, malicious injury, or damage by fire. Now in what way did these two departments discharge their duties?

Take first the Public Works Department. I shall show you that the Public Works Department had absolute control over the whole of the details of the letting of the sites and the arrangement, construction, and use of these match sheds. The Director of Public Works has threefold authority, and consequently three-fold responsibility in this matter.

First, as Custodian of Crown Land in general, and of the Wongneichung Recreation Ground in particular.

Secondly, as Building Authority.

Thirdly, as Water Authority. First: The match sheds were built on land which is the property of the Crown, but has for many years been dedicated to the public for recreation. The Director of Public Works is entrusted with the preservation of this ground, and no building of any sort can be erected there without his consent. He is under no obligation to grant his consent at all, and if he gives his consent he can attach any conditions or restrictions which he may consider advisable.

Secondly: No match shed of any sort can be erected in the Colony without the consent of the Building Authority under Sec. 209 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. Here I should like to digress for a moment and point out that although, strictly speaking, a match shed is a "building" within the Ordinance, it is quite clear that it was never intended that the provisions as to the deposit of plans, etc., should apply to match sheds. The latter have a little code of their own consisting of Sec. 209 and the regulations in Schedule H. The Building Authority has power to relax some of these conditions.

Thirdly: As Water Authority the Director of Public Works has control of the water-supply, including the fire service. He must have known that the water-supply at the Happy Valley in its normal condition was absolutely inadequate to extinguish any fire, and he might have taken steps either to increase that supply or, at least, to have warned the Fire Brigade of its

defects, so that the latter might have gone at once to the sea for its supply instead of waiting time in trying to pump water out of a 3-inch pipe.

Now the only conditions that the Director of Public Works in his threefold capacity made with regard to these match sheds were not for the safety of the public, or the guidance or assistance of the lessees or contractors, but rather the reverse. For example, by insisting on a gangway and fence at the back he obstructed free access to the sheds and deprived the contractors of the right to use raking struts at the back of the row, and by allowing the sheds to be within 50 yards of the Golf Club-house and other buildings he increased the risk of fire.

No provisions were made with regard to the height of the sheds, the numbers to be accommodated, the position or size of the exits, staircases or gangways, or the use of the sheds (except a futile condition about gambling, which it was not intended to enforce), no precaution whatever was taken against fire, and no step was taken either to improve the water supply or inform the Fire Brigade.

The excuse is put forward that the same thing had been going on for some 40 years, but gentlemen, many things have happened in those 40 years, and within the last 20 years there have been a number of disastrous collapses and fatal fires in this Colony to remind the authorities of their duty to protect the public.

The questions of overcrowding and precautions against fire, which are of vital importance to my clients, are as old as Noah's Ark—the first building of which we have a record—and these questions have been considered by the authorities here quite recently in framing regulations for theatres and places of public entertainment.

The question of exits and gangways has been similarly reconsidered and should be quite fresh in the minds of the authorities.

No security was taken for the performance by the lessees of the conditions of the letting; the lessees were not even required to sign their names, or to give their individual names; the auctioneer accepted syndicate names, and could not tell us who the lessees actually were. He thought his comrade knew. Incidentally, this casual method of letting made it impossible in many cases to enforce the penalty provided by clause 6 of Schedule H, as you cannot convict a syndicate as such.

It was a condition of the letting that if the Police objected to any lessee his right might be cancelled, but, as the names of the lessees were never communicated to the Police, this condition was as futile as that against gambling.

Having let the sites in this most unsatisfactory way, and enriched the Treasury to the extent of some \$14,000—the Government always takes good care of that part of the business—the next duty of the Police left the match sheds severely alone. Chief Inspector Kerr seemed to consider them outside the scope of the duty of himself and his men; he stated that none of them went inside the enclosure formed by the match sheds, the Golf Club, and the iron railings connecting the two. He was engaged in regulating the traffic in the public roads, and no doubt, he was fully occupied.

The match sheds and their environment were left to the Detective Force and the District Watchmen.

Inspector Watt has told us how his men were posted, and it appears that there were only two Chinese detectives on duty for the range of match sheds,—as those privately engaged in Mr. Blake's shed can hardly be reckoned. Two men in plain clothes in a crowd of this sort could not possibly see all that was going on, even with the help of two District Watchmen.

It is noticeable that no members of the Police Reserve were called upon for duty at any part of the Race Course: if such a call had been made, no doubt they would have responded to it with their usual alacrity and efficiency.

Next I come to the question of precautions against fire, and this appears to me, the most serious question of all.

The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade frankly admits that no precautions of any kind whatever were taken.

As an excuse for the absence of precautions he puts forward the pleas of (1) "Olo Custom" (2) that nobody asked for them and (3) that any precautions that could have been taken would have been practically useless, as he says that it is impossible to stop a match fire.

In the latter theory he is supported by a number of members of the Fire Brigade, both regulars and volunteers.

Now if it was really the belief of

Authority I should like to refer to the question of tests. It appears that during the 70 years of British Government in this Colony no tests have been made either of the materials of match sheds, or of the load which they can carry. Professor Middleton Smith and others have pointed out the difficulties of material tests, but I imagine they were not insuperable, whilst the dead-load test might easily have been made and the live-load calculated, approximately at least, from it.

I have a few remarks to make about the Water Authority and then I will pass from the Public Works Department to the Police. The three-inch pipe was 20 years old—a fact which cannot have improved it. It serves not only the Golf Club and Jockey Club but, with the assistance of a 4-inch pipe, it serves Wongneichung Village and the supply which is pumped up by electric motor to Broadwood Road. All these factors (which were known to the Water Authority) must have tended to weaken the pressure on the fire hydrants. The Water Authority told us that fire hydrants were placed, not where the Fire Brigade wanted them, but where the Water Authority thought they should be placed, which seems rather a curious arrangement. He was not sure whether the diameter of the pipe was indicated at or near the hydrant, nor did he know whether the Fire Brigade had a map showing the position and size of the hydrants—two rather obvious precautions. He detailed the system of telephones and the posting of turn-locks in the different districts, but he could not assure us that these arrangements had been communicated to the Fire Brigade. It appears that they were not, as the Water Authority's office was not rung up, and the district turn-locks, instead of closing the valves to the East and increasing the pressure near the fire, seems to have been a mere spectator.

Now there was no reason why these two very obvious and simple precautions should not have been taken. "Olo custom" is no excuse, particularly in view of the fact that the Supt. of the Fire Brigade has to see every day that similar precautions are taken in Theatres, and other places of public entertainment, permanent and temporary, European and Chinese.

The posting of a despatch box with a couple of firemen at the Golf Club would not have seriously weakened the Brigade, and a temporary connection might have been made with the hydrant by the Monument, under the road, so as not to block the traffic. Sufficient for one hose might have been kept up, by partially closing the valve as described by the Water Authority.

The Members of the Fire Brigade, who undertake a very arduous and perilous duty, were commendably prompt in coming into action, especially the officer who fetched a despatch box in a motor car from No. 1 Station, but they seem to have been lacking either in information or direction in the use of their appliances.

If they had known, as they should have done, that the hydrant by the Monument was served by a 3-inch pipe only, they would hardly have disconnected the branch and connected the motor pump to that supply. If they had realised, as they might have done, that the fresh water supply in the neighbourhood was quite inadequate for the Motor pump they would have called for the Water Float at once. As it was the float did not arrive until after 3.45 and was not in action until 4 o'clock, one hour after the outbreak.

Now it is clear that the Regular Police left the match sheds severely alone. Chief Inspector Kerr seemed to consider them outside the scope of the duty of himself and his men; he stated that none of them went inside the enclosure formed by the match sheds, the Golf Club, and the iron railings connecting the two. He was engaged in regulating the traffic in the public roads, and no doubt, he was fully occupied.

As soon as the races commenced my clients were entitled to a reasonable share of that protection of persons and property in or near a public Racecourse. It is well-known that horseracing attracts all sorts and conditions of men, from the King to the card-sharper, and from the peer to the pick pocket, and when (as in this case) there is the added attraction of unlimited gambling, and the admitted fact that there are many bad characters in the Colony, the duty of the Police is intensified.

Now, gentlemen, I submit that it is obviously the duty of the Police to take steps for the regulation of a race crowd, and for the protection of persons and property in or near a public Racecourse.

No security was taken for the performance by the lessees of the conditions of the letting; the lessees were not even required to sign their names, or to give their individual names; the auctioneer accepted syndicate names, and could not tell us who the lessees actually were. He thought his comrade knew. Incidentally, this casual method of letting made it impossible in many cases to enforce the penalty provided by clause 6 of Schedule H, as you cannot convict a syndicate as such.

It was a condition of the letting that if the Police objected to any lessee his right might be cancelled, but, as the names of the lessees were never communicated to the Police, this condition was as futile as that against gambling.

Having let the sites in this most unsatisfactory way, and enriched the Treasury to the extent of some \$14,000—the Government always takes good care of that part of the business—the next duty of the Police left the match sheds severely alone. Chief Inspector Kerr seemed to consider them outside the scope of the duty of himself and his men; he stated that none of them went inside the enclosure formed by the match sheds, the Golf Club, and the iron railings connecting the two. He was engaged in regulating the traffic in the public roads, and no doubt, he was fully occupied.

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Now if it was really the belief of

to me that it was the obvious duty of any member of that Brigade and of any officer of the police, who noticed that cooking was going on in the match sheds, to take immediate steps towards stopping that most dangerous practice.

A report to the Captain Superintendent of Police, and a warning from him to the lessees would probably have been sufficient.

It is no excuse to say that there was no rule against cooking, as in cases of imminent danger the police should act at once for the public safety, and it can hardly be supposed that such a warning would have been disregarded.

I think you will agree with me that if the heads of the police were ignorant of the existence of cooking, all those members of the force who

knowing the fact failed to report it grievously neglected a duty which they owed to the public in general, and to my clients amongst others.

But I don't think the theory that precautions are useless is to be taken literally; it has been admitted by several witnesses of experience that buckets of water in the shed might have been of great value, and that a hose laid in position and full of water kept in readiness might have subdued the fire in its initial stage; and that view is supported by more than one independent witness.

Now there was no reason why these two very obvious and simple precautions should not have been taken.

"Olo custom" is no excuse, particularly in view of the fact that the Supt. of the Fire Brigade has to see every day that similar precautions are taken in Theatres, and other places of public entertainment, especially subject to security, and you have heard that many of the sheds were let to syndicates, some of them composed of clerks, meter readers, fire boys and coolies in the Public Works Department. Whether it is desirable for Government Servants to have a share in these gambling booths is a question which I do not propose to discuss.

These lessees had absolute control over the design, dimensions, construction and arrangement of the sheds, provided only that they did not overstep the limits of the Site Plan.

They controlled the supply of electric light, also cooking arrangements, exits, staircases and counters, also the admission to, and use of the sheds.

My clients could not interfere in any of these details, except to the extent pointed out by Mr. Wright, namely to warn the lessees against a design which would result in a structural point of view.

Mr. Bowley went on to recapitulate the design and the arrangements of each shed, with the evidence relating to the first outbreak of fire. He continued:

Now all these sheds 1, 2, 3 and 4 were open to the public in unlimited numbers: Cash sweeps were drawn in most of them, and particularly in the row. The crowd would naturally move from point to point as their attention was attracted by the Races and the gambling afterwards, subjecting the sheds to the load.

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RACERCOURSE DISASTER.

(Continued from Page 9.)

Then the idea that the lashings were being cut created a panic in the breast of Mr. Li Po Lung, a worthy gentleman of great intelligence, so that he forthwith withdrew himself and his family from the shed. For the purpose of my argument with regard to panic it doesn't matter whether the cutting actually took place or not, so long as people thought it was going on.

The cutting theory should not be discussed lightly; there is nothing impossible in it; the evidence of Li Po Lung and his son is that they heard the sound of cutting with a knife; a very characteristic sound quite distinct from the sound of breaking, and the boy was familiar with it from watching bamboo men at work.

Colonel Young's statement that it involved the suicide of the cutter does not render the theory incredible; there is even an historical precedent for such a death in the story of Samson, who brought down upon himself the house of the Philistines at Gaza by pulling out the uprights, and slew at his death more than he slew in his life.

And we can very well imagine that a few desperadoes bent on robbery might have seized the opportunity, when all the spectators were looking at the ponies assembling for the 5th Race, or watching (as one witness told us) the drawing of the Champion Sweeps, of cutting the lashings of the cross bracing in one or more of the basements of the sheds. Such lashings are not in the middle of the shed, but near the edge, and it would be quite easy to cut with one of these sharp knives which the bamboo men use, and to slip out before the shed fell. It would be still easier to vanish in the panic stricken mob, with much of the cash that must have been scattered about. We are told that much cash vanished, we have no information as to how much was burnt and how much stolen.

Of course no good policeman will admit the existence of a crime unless he has a clue, and no clue to the matched cutters has been found—the police therefore are bound to pooh-pooh this theory.

If any damage was done either intentionally or accidentally to the structure which caused the partial collapse of a floor, that would be quite sufficient to start a panic with the consequent rush to the exits and the concentration of the live load in a portion of the structure not prepared to receive it, and the consequent collapse of the shed.

Mr. Bowley touched on the evidence as to the fire, stating: It is obvious that any one of these fires may have caused panic, and it is probable that each of them caused a number of deaths; and for such deaths my clients cannot be held responsible.

It is argued that the pile of bodies at No. 8 and the condition of the bodies proves that the collapse commenced there, but there is no medical evidence to support this theory.

The death in the case before you was due to suffocation and that might have resulted either from collapse or fire; and Dr. Macfarlane has told you that the position of the legs does not necessarily point to suffocation.

I suggest that the pile of bodies at No. 8 was caused by a combination of causes. We know that the sheds fell towards No. 8, but the top-floor of No. 8 fell in the opposite direction—this gives us a double quantity at that point. Such congestion would increase the panic and the difficulty of getting out. The shed itself is a strongly constructed with a forest of uprights, cross braces, staircases etc. that its very strength again added to the difficulties of extraction. Finally we know that the fiercest fire started near this spot, and rendered the chances of escape from this mass of struggling humanity practically nil. It does not follow however that any of these persons were killed by collapse, all or any of them may have been killed by the fire. The pile of bodies at that point also points to the fact that sheds 8 and 9 were seriously overcrowded.

Finally we come to the evidence of experts, professionals and amateurs.

I will first deal with those who criticised the construction of the matcheds unfavourably.

With all respect to Colonel Ward I venture to submit that he gave his opinion somewhat hastily.

You will remember that the gallant Colonel came into Court, glanced at the model of No. 16, and

said "there is the cause of the collapse."

Now No. 16 by itself is like a brick standing on end—it is topheavy; but the range of matcheds taken as a whole were like a brick lying on its broad side which is not topheavy. At every point of the row the base was broader than the height.

Then we were told that the structure was faulty for want of diagonal braces, and owing to the fact that the floors were on different levels; but it was subsequently demonstrated that the provision of diagonal bracing is a question of degree, and that you must regard the structure as a whole, and remember that a diagonal brace at any point helps to resist the thrust of the whole range towards that point.

Mr. Messer told us that he had studied mathematics and that if you placed a series of horizontals on a series of perpendiculars and then gave a lateral thrust the structure would collapse: a fairly elementary principle which most of us learnt in our nurseries.

He totally ignored the lashings, but at last he had to admit that each lashing afforded a certain amount of resistance to a lateral thrust, which amount must be multiplied by the number of points lashed.

Colonel Young has had no experience in matched construction, but he has built bridges for artillery, and was strong on the theory of diagonal bracing. Now whatever stresses these matcheds had to stand, they were not asked to stand that of a tank or heavy howitzer crossing them, or any of the special strains to which bridges are subject; and we have evidence that the braces were sufficient for all ordinary purposes.

Colonel Young also criticised the apparent absence of a strut in continuation of the line of the back of No. 9, but I have since pointed out to you that there is a very substantial strut there, which, though not in line, is so near the line as to afford considerable support. Also that each of the diagonal braces, sloping from N.E. to S.W. in the range from 14 to 15 takes up the thrust as it comes along and relieves

No. 9 of the greater part of it.

Professor Middleton Smith and Mr. Dyer both said that, having no data to go upon, they could only rely on the experience of the contractor.

Mr. Chatham, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Wright and Mr. Sara who have all had practical experience in matched structures, all gave it as their considered opinion, that the matcheds were sufficiently strong for all ordinary purposes.

Mr. Denison, an absolutely independent witness whose experience in the Colony is longer than that of any other witness, totally disagreed with Colonel Ward's theory that the floors being on different levels afforded no support, in fact he went so far as to say that the contrary was the case, and that since the floors were lashed to the uprights, the difference in level afforded the latter more points of support.

Finally Mr. Bird, who has had very considerable experience of matched structures, and who gave his evidence in a very clear and convincing way, after a careful examination of all the data before him, laid special stress on the principle that you must treat the structure as a whole, and the only improvement he could suggest was the restoration of those raking struts at the rear which the Public Works Department (in order to protect the turf) had forbidden the contractor to erect.

One final word about "the 3 storied sheds" upon which a great deal of criticism has been passed. Mr. Wright has pointed out that nearly all the sheds in 1914 were of 3 stories, as they had high basements. The increase in 1918 is therefore trifling, and in 1918 there were even sheds of 4 stories, which stood in the same manner for the past thirteen years and had double uprights leading up to the upper floor. Mr. Blake had also said that they had solid wooden counters provided by themselves, and not by the contractors. They also had three large water barrels on the ground floor and eight fire buckets. There was also provision for controlling the spectators, two watchmen being stationed at the door, while there were two detectives in the stand during the whole of the race meeting. As in the case of other sheds no charge was made for admission. Accordingly, Mr. Stevenson, thought that the Coroner and the Jury would come to the conclusion that as far as his clients were concerned they had taken all reasonable precautions, such as ordinary or customary, or usually taken in looking after the interests of the public who attended in their stand. There was only one suggestion that he wished to make to his clients, and that was to submit some suggestions as follows:

1. That the Conditions of Letting Race-matched sites should be revised by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police with a view to the safety of the public and submitted to the Legislative Council for approval.

2. That sites should be let to responsible individuals only subject to a cash deposit as security for compliance with the conditions, which should be signed by lessee.

3. That the gangway at the back of the sheds should be widened and kept clear of staircases, iron railings, hawkers and other obstructions.

4. That shores should be allowed at the back of the sheds, precautions being taken to protect the turf.

5. That the height, floor space, internal arrangement and lighting of, and the exits from the sheds should be approved by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police before erection.

6. That the number to be accommodated on each floor should be fixed by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police and conspicuously displayed on each floor, the lessee being subject to a penalty if overcrowding occurs.

7. That no fire or light (except electric properly fixed) shall be allowed in any shed in the row.

A properly isolated shed might be provided for refreshments.

8. That the sheds should be passed by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police before the Races, and inspected by their officers daily during the Races, and regularly patrolled by the Police.

9. That no counters or other provision for the sale, drawing or cashing of tickets should be allowed on any upper floor.

10. That a detachment of the Fire Brigade with hose ready fixed should be in attendance at the Races.

11. That until a proper fire service has been installed at the Race Course arrangements should be made for an immediate and adequate supply of sea water.

12. That the Water Authority should confer with the Captain Superintendent of Police as to the position and size of Fire Hydrants, which should be periodically tested by the Fire Brigade.

13. That the Fire Brigade should be supplied with maps and instructed as to the position and size of hydrants, the stations and size of turncocks, the use of the water authority's telephone system etc.

14. That the Fire Float should be in direct telephonic communication with the Fire Station, and the Fire Course in direct telephonic communication with the Central Police Station by Government Telephones in each case.

I thank you gentlemen for the kind attention you have given and I apologise for the time I have thought it my duty to occupy.

Mr. D. V. Stevenson said he did not propose to deal with all of the evidence, which had been very fully and ably dealt with by Mr. Bowley. He also did not wish to offer any criticism on the action of the Government, the Public Works Department or the Fire Brigade.

His own interest in the proceedings, as he thought the jury knew, was on behalf of the lessee of the United Stand, and he thought the evidence clearly showed, at least he submitted, that the evidence tended to show, that as regarded sheds 4, 5 and 6 no negligence or want of care could be assigned to those people. As Mr. Blake had told them, the stands had been built in the same manner for the past thirteen years and had double uprights leading up to the upper floor. Mr. Blake had also said that they had solid wooden counters provided by themselves, and not by the contractors. They also had three large water barrels on the ground floor and eight fire buckets.

There was also provision for controlling the spectators, two watchmen being stationed at the door, while there were two detectives in the stand during the whole of the race meeting. As in the case of other sheds no charge was made for admission.

Accordingly, Mr. Stevenson, thought that the person who takes on the permit must comply with the Ordinance. It does not go so far as to say that the Building Authority must enforce the provisions of the Ordinance, which alone know anything about them at all. As to the contractors responsibility then, it was part of his duty to make representations to the Building Authority or responsible officer, if he knew that the prohibited struts on the Golf Club side were necessary. His Mr. D'Almada's submission was that the contractor was equally responsible for not having made such representations, because the contractor was the man who knew all about the fact.

The Coroner: According to the Ordinance it can be well argued that plans should have been submitted, but as to whether there was

THE SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE,
HONGKONG.WAR BOND DRAWING
QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS
3
ANSWER A.—99.

QUESTION A.—How many tickets have you purchased or how many are you interested in?

ANSWER B.—Of course!

QUESTION C.—If so what are you going to do with the proceeds?

ANSWER C.—Give 1/3rd to Charity and pouch the balance.

The foregoing are reasonable answers to the questions but you may have some better ones; if so, please submit them to "War Bond Answers." Post Office Box No. 351, Hongkong, who will give judgment thereon, and sender of the best answers will receive TWO WAR BOND TICKETS AND 5 TOMBOLA SPILLS. Any number of alternative answers may be sent in but winner will be required to produce a War Bond Ticket already purchased for each answer submitted. All alternative answers to be sent in by the 23rd of April. They may be in comic, poetic or tragic vein. Judging of answers will be made by the St. George's Day Publicity Committee!

TICKETS are on sale at Banks, Clubs, Hotels, Leading Stores, and the Hongkong and South China War Saving Association c/o the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.

any statutory obligation on the Department to inspect these sheds.

Mr. D'Almada: Yes, there was a section.

Asked for the section Mr.

D'Almada said he did not know

that there was any direct section

on the point.

The Coroner: If the Building Authority has omitted any duty, it

has omitted the duty to inspect.

Mr. D'Almada: I submit that

the Building Authority has not

acted in accordance with the pro-

visions of the Ordinance. He him-

self said that he has not applied

the law in this particular case.

The Coroner: He is at fault in

not calling for a plan.

Mr. D'Almada: He has not call-

ed for a plan and he has allowed

the lessee to build any sort of

structure they liked, or any height

and of any description so long as

they did not encroach on the ad-

joining land.

Resuming: Mr. D'Almada said

that regarding the stability of the

sheds, irrespective of what he had

already said regarding the respon-

sibility of the Building Authority,

there was also a duty at common

law upon the matched contractor

to see that all due care was taken

and proper materials used in the con-

struction of the sheds. He agreed

with many witnesses that there

were not many persons in the

Colony who knew as much as these

experienced matched builders

of the art or science of matched build-

ing. He submitted with every

confidence that there was no single

architect in the Colony who really

knew the art and science of matched

shed construction. Such being the

case, these things were left entirely

to the matched contractor, who

alone knew anything about them at

all. As to the contractors respon-

sibility then, it was part of his

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tor was the man who knew all about

the fact.

do you think that that clears the contractor of all liability?

Mr. Bowley: I submit so. The cause of death must be the immediate cause of death and if the immediate cause of death was fire that was not a risk contemplated by the contractor.

Mr. Wakeman not wishing to address again, the Coroner intimated that the summing up would be given on Friday.

The New French Minister. The new French Minister to Peking, M. A. Bopp,



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There has been no alteration in size, weight, quality or manufacture of "Embassy" since 1914.

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WHAT THE NAVY HAS DONE.

A glorious Record.

Mr. Leyland's little book ("The Achievements of the British Navy in the World War") is the best we have seen, and it is published at a price (one shilling) which is not beyond the means of the all-powerful man in the street, says the Chronicle. If there is foolish criticism of the Navy—and the writer of these lines has never heard anything on the subject but expressions of admiration and gratitude—Admiral Beatty and his brave band of brothers may take consolation from Mr. Leyland's reminder that Howe was not in fogg in London almost at the very time when he was fighting his glorious victory of Quiberon.

Our Navy was the prepared arm of our defence at the outbreak of this war, and from that day to this it has directly and indirectly preserved the Allies from defeat and enabled them to do the magnificent work they have done abroad. It is, as Mr. Leyland quotes an old writer, "the thread that runs through the whole woof, the burden of the song, the scope of the text."

Whereas the French in the Napoleonic wars continued to capture British ships for ten years after Trafalgar at the rate of 500 a year, the commerce destroying campaign of the Germans by means of cruisers and armed liners was brought to an end in the early months of the present war. The submarines came later, but the facts quoted show that the Navy in 1914 was relatively stronger by many times than it was a hundred years ago. It has safe-guarded our own seaborne supplies and cut off those of the enemy, it has been the support

in thrust and bold, of the armies in the field, shaft of their spear head," and its influence has been as world-wide as the war. Where is the naval power of the Germans? Either in German ports or "skulking" under the water. The Jutland battle put the fighting superiority of our fleet beyond dispute.

At the beginning of the war the German Navy was unprepared, while our own Navy was ready, and the advantage to the British which then arose has never been lost. Sea power has enabled Britain to assemble her armies from India, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, it has guarded them in their passage to France, Belgium, Greece, Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, and Africa, and it will be the ruling factor in making American aid effective; on the other hand, Germany has been unable to send a single soldier to defend her colonies, which have collapsed virtually before the power of our Navy. It is very absurd if anyone is asking what the Navy is doing, when it is so patent that it is winning the war. Mr. Leyland writes in an agreeable and convincing style, and we hope that his moving and interesting narrative will be widely read both at home and abroad.

Billy Sunday's language is unique, but in his gymnastic exercises on the platform he has been anticipated here by the late Father Ignatius. When in mid-Victorian days he used to preach at St. George's Hall, on St. George's Day he used to cover half a mile in each sermon, and the late Judge Wills in his Parliamentary days made full use of the opportunities a large and free platform gave for theatrical display. He would rush or cross in the heavy tragedian's fashion with folded arms, fling himself into a chair, and spring up to thunder forth his righteous indignation, to the great delight of his audience.

NOTICES.

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POST OFFICE.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Registered and Parcel Mails close 15 minutes earlier than the time given below unless otherwise stated.

The Parcel Post service to places in Szechuan Province is suspended until further notice.

The London Post Office advises that all parcels (except those for Prisoners of War) and all sample packets for Denmark, Holland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland will be stopped by the Military Censors unless posted under a War Office permit.

The importation into the Commonwealth of Australia of tea, other than that grown or produced in British Possessions in India, unless the consent in writing of the Commonwealth Minister for Trade and Customs has been first obtained.

The Parcel Post Services to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Eritrea, French Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Uninsured parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yenanfu and Ningpo and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—

Parcel not over 2 lbs. 90 cents.

Do. 2 lbs. 1.10

Do. 3 lbs. 1.20

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O—Week days, 5 p.m.

17 Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

Ching Chow—Week days, 7.30 a.m.

and 3 p.m.

Shantouk, Shatin and Shewung-hui—

Week days, 4 p.m.

Aberdeen, Apun, Ping Shan, Kai Kung, Santan and Stanley—Week days, 4.30 p.m.

Canton, Samshu and Wuchow—Week

days, 7.30 p.m. Registration 5 p.m. Letters 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.

Macao—Weekdays, 7.15 a.m., 1.30 p.m.

Sundays, 9 a.m.

Kongmooon—Week days, 6 p.m. Except

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at

5 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m.

Shamian—Week days, 10 a.m., 4 p.m.;

Sundays, 9 a.m.

POLO SHEUNG-WAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

Macao—Week days, 7.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m.

Sundays, 7.30 a.m.; Holiday, 7.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m.

Canton—Week days, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m.;

Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m.

Tai Ping Tang—Week days, 9.30 p.m.;

Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.

Shel Kai—Week days, 9 a.m.; Sun-

days, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.

Kowloon—Week days, 6 p.m.; Ex-

cept Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 p.m.

Kowloon—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sun-

days, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.

Kankong—Week days, 6 p.m. Except

Saturdays; Sundays, 9 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.

OUTWARD MAILS.

TO-MORROW.

Saigon—10th April, 9 a.m.

Straits, Ceylon, Lourenco Marques, Capetown & Europe—10th April, 10 a.m.

Honolulu—10th April, Registration 10.45 a.m. Letters 11.30 a.m.

THURSDAY, 11th April.

Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Ningpo—11th April, 7 a.m.

Saigon—11th April, 9 a.m.

Port Baysard, Hainan and Haiphong—11th April, 3 a.m.

Shanghai, N. China, Japan via Nagasaki, Canada, United States, Central and S. America and Europe via Canada—11th April, Registration 9.45 a.m. Letters 10.30 a.m.

The Parcel Mail will be closed on

Wednesday, 11th April, at 5 p.m.

Shanghai and North China—11th April, 2 p.m.

H.K. Observatory, Apr. 9, 1918.

T. E. CLAXTON, Director.

Previous Day on date On date

Barometer 29.74 29.74 29.72

Temperature 76 74 73

Humidity 87 92 84

Wind Direction S. S. E. W.

Force 3 3 1

Weather 0 0 0

Rain 0.90 0.00 0.10

Highest speed air Temperature on the 1st 1st

Lowest 1st

Wind 1st

Clouds 1st

Humidity 1st

Wind 1st